Mexican Army Hunts Snipers

Fierce Battle Fails to Cancel Olympics

By CHARLES GREEN

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Troops hunted room by room for snipers while tanks patrolled downtown streets Thursday after the bloodiest fighting of Mexico's student revolt. The turmoil prompted an anxious meeting of international Olympic officials, but they decided to open the 1968 games Oct. 12 as planned.

Savage clashes between student rebels and the forces of President Gustav Diaz Ordaz' government Wednesday night left a death toll variously estimated at 20 to 40. Hundreds of others were injured and thousands jailed.

Rioting has shaken Mexico City since mid-July when students struck to back up such demands as elimination of the riot police corps, firing of top police officials, changes in the antisubversion law and a guarantee of university autonomy. The harassed government ordered an army takeover of the University of Mexico last month.

Avery Brundage, president of the International Olympic Committee, announced the games will go on as scheduled after an emergency committee session.

ASSURANCE GIVEN

"We have conferred with the Mexican authorities and we have been assured that nothing will interfere with the peaceful entrance of the Olympic flame into the stadium on Oct. 12, nor with the competition which follows," Brundage said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the Olympic organizing committee announced that an international space exploration exhibit planned in conjunction with the Olympics has been suspended. The exhibit, already being prepared, was to have been held on the campus of the University of Mexico.

Rampaging students burned three trolley cars in front of Aztec stadium in southern Mexico City, where Olympic soccer competition is to be held, and fled before police made any arrests.

One Mexico City newspaper reported 40 dead. In Wednesday night's fighting the government put the toll at 20—one soldier and 19 civilians. Associated Press newsmen counted 25 bodies, almost all of them civilians.

Several students told newsmen that at least six leaders of the strike committee were killed. They said several others were arrested and the rest were in hiding.

A rioting gang of students later set two street cars afire near the Olympic stadium. Traffic piled up on the Tlalpan freeway for more than an hour until firemen doused the flames and hauled off the wreckage.

The battleground, as in a bloody fight last week, was the Tlatelolco district around the plaza, an area of high-rise, low-rent apartments some occupied by students. Many family heads among the 70,000 residents are government employes or pensioners.

It was in that area, near the heart of Mexico City, that Hernando Cortes' Spanish troops rushed the last army of the Aztecs. Tlatelolco is an Aztec word meaning "Place of the Gods."

6,000 GATHER

About 6,000 persons had gathered in the plaza for an antigovernment rally. The muted thump of a mortar was the first signal that there might be real trouble. The mortar fired phosphorus flares that illuminated the crowd. Many ran in

anic.
Helicopters also were aloft.
Soldiers with fixed bayonets ıoved on the plaza from all ides. No more than 30 seconds fter the last flare fell, a single hot—apparently aimed at a sol-ier—set off a roar of fire and ounterfire. Bullets chipped tone walls around the plaza.

Machine gun squads raked windows and rooftops from which rebels fired at them with rifles and pistols. The fight raged for most of the night. Snipers fell silent a few hours before dawn.

Oriana Fallaci, an Italian ewspaperwoman wounded in he fight, said: "I have covered he Vietnam war, but I have ıever seen anything similar to vhat happened last night."

Miss Fallaci, 40, was shot in he right thigh, left knee and in he back. She is under treat-nent at the French hospital.

FLARE DROPPED

"I was standing on a balcony verlooking the plaza with some udent leaders who were speak-ıg to the crowd," she said.

"Everything was quiet. I dn't expect any trouble. Sud-enly a helicopter loomed over ıe building and dropped a are. In a matter of seconds, olice charged into the building, oke into the apartment and rrested all of us.

"I was brought forcefully wn to the plaza. For the first me I saw the soldiers. There as wild shouting all over the ace.

"I even had the feeling sol-ers and policemen were trad-g shots in the great confusion.

"I dashed for shelter. When I ıd almost made it I felt a ter-ble pain in my back and my g. I realized I was hit.

"I lay on the ground with blood pouring out of my body. Every time I tried to raise my head and call for help, a police-man was pointing his gun at me.

"It was a terrible, unbeliev-able thing."

Miss Fallaci said she felt fine despite the ordeal. "I think I'll make it," she said.

Army Patrols Area of Student Rioting

—AP WIREPHOTO.

ARMORED CARS are lined up on the Plaza of the Three Cultures in Mexico City Thursday, the scene of fierce clashes Wednesday night between Mexican troops and rioting students. Twenty-five persons died in the shooting but snipers were silenced by Thursday morning. The Olympic Games are supposed to start in that city on Oct. 12.

Buildings Seized in Monterrey

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — Students took over administration buildings and four departments at the University of Monterrey Thursday. They were protesting the alleged disappearance of two students they had sent to Mexico City to support dissident students.

Other youths were reported holding meetings around the city, denouncing government action against students in the capital and demanding that the government return the two missing Monterrey students.

Burglars Steal $2,000 in Tools

GULFPORT, Miss. (AP) — Nearly $2,000 worth of power tools were stolen from a Gulfport firm in a burglary discovered Thursday morning.

Police Chief Howard L. Hobbs said the intruders broke open a side window and removed seven chain saws from the display room of Coastal Machinery Company.